

# The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 29

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 21, 1947

## Gallup Reveals Citizen Defects

His Polls Show Large Numbers of People Uninformed on Public Issues

HOW well is democracy working in the United States? Do the majority of Americans know enough about the great national and international problems of our day to help deal with them wisely? Is there widespread political interest and activity among our people?

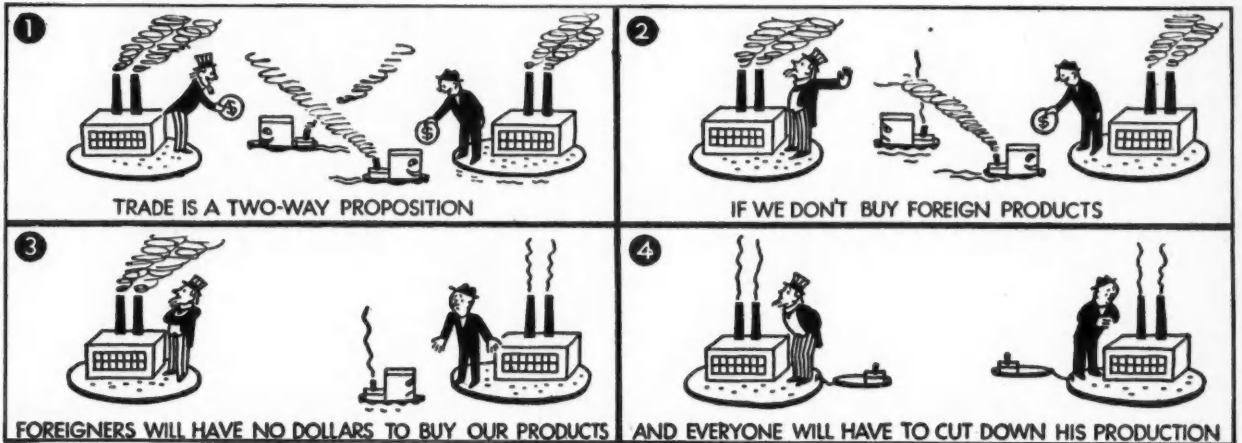
No man in the country is better able to answer these questions than Dr. George Gallup, founder and director of the American Institute of Public Opinion. This organization, over a period of years, has conducted hundreds of polls to find out what people know and think about issues before our country and the world.

Dr. Gallup, a short time ago, wrote an article for the *National Municipal Review*. It contained a wealth of information about American citizens—their knowledge of, and interest in, political matters. The facts he presented are both important and shocking.

The *Reader's Digest*, in its April issue, has condensed this article and given its contents a wide audience. Through the courtesy of that magazine, we are also passing on to our readers the facts, conclusions, and recommendations presented by Dr. Gallup. The information and ideas contained in the rest of this article are his, except in cases where opinions are clearly identified as those of the editors of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

The quality of our government depends to a large extent on the interests of the voters in elections. The citizens of a democracy should be sufficiently

(Concluded on page 2)



## Nations Discuss World Trade

While 18 Countries Plan to Expand International Exchange of Goods, the United States Studies Its Policies to See How They Affect Trade

REPRESENTATIVES of 18 nations, including the United States, are sitting around a Council table in Geneva, Switzerland, this week, talking about an extremely difficult problem. The subject of discussion is international trade.

At first glance the problem seems simple enough. All the nations want to trade with other countries. They want to buy goods from foreigners and to sell part of their products in foreign markets. But for one reason or another all the nations have set up barriers against international trade. They establish rules which make it hard to ship goods across boundary lines.

As a result foreign trade is lagging. People who need goods produced in other lands aren't getting as much as they want. Farmers and manufacturers who would like to sell to outsiders are not finding a good market. In many places the sluggishness of trade among nations prevents recovery from the losses inflicted by war.

What is to be done about this situation? That is the question the Geneva conference is tackling. It will discuss the barriers to commerce which nations have erected. It will recommend that some of these barriers be lowered or removed.

If the 18 nations reach an agreement about measures which should be adopted, they will invite all countries to join them. The conference will draw up a plan for an International Trade Organization. The plan will be submitted to the United Nations and to the individual members. If approved, the agency will become a permanent part of the UN.

It will be on the job all the time, studying the trade policies of all the nations, advising against rules which hinder commerce across boundary lines, promoting international business in every possible way.

The United States cannot be a member of the organization without the approval of Congress and the question of whether we should join will

no doubt be debated extensively in the Senate and House when the issue arises. Meanwhile, the American people are watching the Geneva conference.

This country is vitally interested in foreign trade. If we are to be strong and prosperous and if we are to maintain a high standard of living, we must buy many things from foreigners and we must sell part of the goods we produce to outsiders. We must carry on a flourishing import and export trade.

The need for foreign markets is clear. A few illustrations will show how dependent we are upon foreign demand for certain types of goods. Consumers in the United States buy only about half the cotton which is raised in this country. The rest is shipped abroad. If the foreign demand should disappear or fall off seriously, southern farmers could not sell all their cotton. Many of them would be ruined and a large section of the country would be impoverished.

Nearly a third of the tobacco crop is sold abroad. Our farmers ship about a tenth of their wheat overseas. If the foreign market for these products should dry up, prices of tobacco and wheat would fall disastrously and millions of our people would suffer. Dairy farmers and hog raisers also depend heavily on foreign sales. American agriculture would suffer serious losses if foreign demand should dwindle.

Many of our manufacturing industries need foreign customers. Before the war, the majority of them were producing more than the people of the United States could buy. They were disposing of the surplus to foreign markets. The demand from the outside enabled them to keep their factories going at capacity and to employ thousands of workmen who would not have had jobs if the factories had produced only as much as could be sold in this country.

During the war the factories ex-

(Continued on page 6)

## Mastering the Art of Reading

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

HOW well do you read? Have you ever tested yourself to determine the answer to this question? Suppose you try it. Sit down and read the article which begins in column one of this page. Read it through without stopping. Then close the paper, and think through the problems considered in the article. Do you have the whole thing well in mind? Did you follow the discussion with concentrated attention? Does the outline of it stand out in your memory? Or is it all quite hazy?

If the subject covered is dim and indistinct as you try to recall the contents, something is wrong. Find out what it is. Perhaps your mind wandered as you read. That frequently happens when one

has not trained himself to be a good reader. You may have read several paragraphs without knowing what you were reading. The words may have been seen, but they may not have registered with you. You may have been thinking of something else. That is a mark of poor reading, but it is nothing at all unusual. Or you may not have understood some of the words.

Whatever is wrong with your reading, it should be corrected. If your wits go wool-gathering when you read, it may be because you read too slowly. Take out your watch and time yourself while you read half a column or so under conditions of close application and fixed attention. Find out how rapidly you read when your mind is really fixed on your reading. Then keep your watch before you. Figure out how long it should take

you to read one of the articles, and try to hold to the schedule.

You may think that your thoughts will scatter all the more if you read rapidly, but usually that is not the case. If you set yourself to rapid reading, you are applying yourself to the task. You are alert, energetic. Ideas keep flowing in as you proceed. There is less likelihood of your getting off the track, just as there is less likelihood that a bicyclist will get off the track if he goes at a good speed than if he travels at a snail's pace.

See that you understand the meanings of all the words and terms that you come across. Use your dictionary freely. And buckle down to your task. Be attentive, energetic, alert. Watch for results. Test yourself frequently. Then after a while you may expect to be reading well—using the printed page effectively.



# U. S. Democracy

(Concluded from page 1)

interested to go to the polls and express their opinions. Unfortunately, many Americans in this, the greatest democracy in the world, do not take the trouble to vote. Fewer Americans exercise their right to vote for candidates and parties than do the citizens of any other real democracy.

On July 1, 1946, the number of persons in the United States entitled to vote was more than 91 million. Yet, in the congressional election of that year, only 35 million voted. There is,



AM. INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION  
**GEORGE GALLUP**, head of the American Institute of Public Opinion

of course, more interest in presidential elections, but in 1944, the total of votes cast was only 48 million.

This record is much worse than that of other democratic nations. At the last general election in England, the number voting was 50 per cent greater in proportion to voting population than in our last presidential election.

In Canada's last election, one-third more of its citizens, in proportion to population, voted than did in our most recent presidential election, and nearly twice as many as in our last congressional election.

Our record looks worse because of the fact that in the Southern states there is only one party which has a chance of success in the elections. Furthermore, poll tax laws keep many people away from the polls. These circumstances make the vote extremely light in the South, but even in other parts of the country the record is not good.

The present situation is the more depressing when we note the fact that fewer voters now go to the polls than did 50 years ago. Even a hundred years ago, when the problem of getting to the polls was much more difficult than it is now, the proportion of voters who took part in elections was greater than it is today. Interest in voting is falling off, rather than increasing.

One reason why citizens are not interested enough in government to go to the polls is that the schools and colleges do not teach enough about government and about national and local problems. The political ignorance of our citizens has been demonstrated by a number of polls.

In January 1946, only 31 per cent of all voters knew that a Congress was to be elected the following November. One-third of all citizens who have had college training do not know the number of years for which members of the House of Representatives are elected.

Only 4 out of 10 persons who have gone to college know how many Justices there are in the United States Supreme Court.

At the end of the presidential campaign in 1944, after there had been months of political discussion, only two-thirds of the voters could name the vice-presidential candidate on the Republican ticket, and not quite so many could name the Democratic vice-presidential candidate.

In January of 1945, the month which witnessed the inauguration of the President and Vice President, only 68 per cent of all the voters, slightly more than two-thirds, could name the man who was elected Vice President—the man who is now our President.

Only 4 voters in 10 can name both senators from their own state, and only half of all the voters can give the name of their representative in Congress.

The schools and colleges are not wholly to blame for the political ignorance of citizens, but surely they could give students a better knowledge of government and of our many national problems.

## Second Reason

The second reason for the lack of interest in politics and in voting is that political campaigns are fought on a very low plane. The typical candidate throws fairness aside. He does not appeal to the intelligence of voters. He makes vicious attacks upon his opponents, using any argument that comes to mind. He makes promises which he knows cannot be fulfilled.

The public is more intelligent and fair-minded than the politicians seem to think. People tire of all this political trickery and become disgusted with politics.

A third reason for the lack of interest in elections is that when voters go to the polls they do not have a chance to express their views directly on important issues of the day. They merely choose between candidates.

For example, in 1928, the voters of the country were intensely interested in prohibition. If the question "Should the Prohibition Amendment

be Repealed?" had been on the ballot, more voters would undoubtedly have gone to the polls. More of them would have voted for one of the presidential contestants—Hoover or Smith.

In 1920 the public was concerned about the League of Nations, but the question of whether we should go in or stay out was not on the ballot. The voters chose between Harding and Cox for President, but there was no way for them to put themselves on record with respect to the issue uppermost in all minds.

In 1936 a majority of the voters were for Roosevelt, but they had no chance, either then or later, to express their views on the Supreme Court issue, which was so prominent at the time. Last fall many voters who stayed at home would probably have gone to the polls if they could have expressed themselves on the closed shop and other such issues.

Dr. Gallup recommends that in every election the voters should be able to vote on *issues* as well as for *candidates*. They should have the opportunity of voting "yes" or "no" on questions of what to do about important problems of the day. According to his plan, Congress would not be obliged to follow the wishes of the majority of voters in enacting legislation, but the results of the balloting would be seriously taken into account.

Though too many Americans refrain from going to the polls, it must not be assumed that all the non-voters lack civic interest. Many of them would be willing to participate in governmental affairs if they had the right kind of opportunity.

Polls indicate that there are 50 million people in the United States who would be willing to serve on committees made up of private citizens, the purpose of which would be to study current problems in their own communities; problems such as housing, strikes, health, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, and education. Seven out of every ten of the leading men of the nation say that they would gladly take time to help solve these problems in their communities.

In Toledo, something along this line



LEWIS IN MILWAUKEE JOURNAL  
"You only get out what you put in"

has been done. A committee of citizens organized to work with labor disputes in that city, and they achieved such success that the people of Louisville followed the Toledo example.

Millions of Americans are willing to engage in activities such as this. If we send this army of citizens into action, we can achieve more in the next five years than we have in the last half century.

## Situation Serious

It is a serious thing for a democracy when many of its citizens are uninterested in politics. Fortunately, says Dr. Gallup, American voters, even though many of them are ill-informed, possess a high degree of common sense which usually leads them to right decision.

In making this statement, however, Dr. Gallup does not assume that uninformed common sense is a satisfactory substitute for political knowledge. He adds that if people were better informed we would certainly have better government.

The editors of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER think that this conclusion deserves emphasis. At times the people, possessed of common sense, but without knowledge of the issues at stake, have acted wisely but many times they have not. The pages of history are dotted with mistakes, some of which have been tragic.

During the 1920's the public, with full understanding of the economic forces at work, might have supported policies which would have prevented depression, but the public was not well informed and did not support such policies. The depression came and American families suffered a disaster from which millions will never recover.

During recent times, the United States has entered two wars unprepared, and many lives have been lost as a result. This happened because a relatively uninformed public was not prepared for the problems of foreign and military policy which confronted them. Wise decisions by the American people during the years from 1918 to 1939 might even have prevented the Second World War.

Common sense will carry us through many difficulties; common sense, *plus knowledge of government and public problems*, should guarantee good government and the wise solution of great issues.

# SMILES

A prominent political leader says that what a good reporter needs most is strong legs—"first to catch the man he wants to interview and secondly to run away from him after he has printed it."

★ ★ ★  
Cop: "How do you know the men who stole your car were professionals?"  
Motorist: "Because no amateur could have started it."

★ ★ ★  
"How's business?" someone asked the scissors-grinder.  
"Swell," he replied. "I never saw things so dull."



FOLLETTE IN SATURDAY EVENING POST  
"My card, Miss. I'm with the Ajax Fly-paper Company"

A small boy down South was playing with some puppies. A passerby stopped and asked him what kind they were. The lad replied promptly, "They're Republicans now, but when they get their eyes open they'll be Democrats."

★ ★ ★  
A man who had spent his life in Vermont visited the South recently, and on his return to his native state he said to a neighbor: "Until I made this trip I had never seen a Democrat."  
His friend replied: "Well, you hadn't missed much, had you?"

★ ★ ★  
Policeman (calling up precinct): "A man has been robbed down here, and I've got one of them."  
Chief: "Which one have you?"  
Policeman: "The man that was robbed."

★ ★ ★  
"Look here," said the landlady. "You owe me three months' rent, but I'll meet you half way. I'm willing to forget half of what you owe."  
"Fair enough," said the tenant, "and I'll forget the other half."

★ ★ ★  
"What did one duck say to another duck?"  
"I don't know. What?"  
"Social Security."  
"Social Security? I don't get it."  
"You will when you're 65."



## Readers Say—

Congress should back President Truman's foreign policy. If we tried to work through the United Nations, the Russian delegate would only veto the idea, and the aid to Greece and Turkey would not get anywhere.

A. O. LINGENFELTER,  
Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania.

UN supporters are trying to convince the public that the organization can be a great instrument of peace even though the United States has by-passed it to help Greece and Turkey. If the UN can be ignored on one matter, it can and will be ignored on others. Then the organization just will not work. We must consider the need for speed in helping Greece and Turkey, but we must also consider that the UN's very existence depends on how we use it.

MAX PERLITSH,  
Malden, Massachusetts.

What has Turkey done to merit a 150 million dollar loan? She fattened herself off the Germans and Allies by offering her vital chrome supplies to the highest bidder during the war. And why should the democratic United States support the undemocratic government of Greece? The Greek king was restored with the aid of British troops and does not represent the people.

ALBERT JOHNSON,  
Embarrass, Minnesota.

After reading your article on world hunger, our world history classes decided to organize a campaign to raise money for the starving, war-torn countries of Europe. We have written for a film on the results of starvation, and plan to show it in an assembly. We also plan to use posters to bring the students' attention to the desperate need for food and clothing.

JOSEPHINE FRANKOW,  
Camden, New York.

We believe other high schools will be interested to know that Northeast High School in Philadelphia has had an active Bible Club since 1928. The club sponsors a variety of activities including Bible study, lectures, and visits to churches.

The club has given its members invaluable training in character and leadership, and it emphasizes the spiritual life of youth.

JOSEPH PINTER,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A picture with the title "Model Boats for Lake Michigan" appeared in this paper March 10. The students and advisor of our class thought your readers would like to know that Mr. Peter Peterson, the man who makes the boats, lives in Manistee, Michigan. Many of us know Mr. Peterson and follow his work with great interest.

ELEANORE ALBRECHT,  
Manistee, Michigan.

A caption under a picture of the Panama Canal in your paper recently said that the Pedro Miguel Locks were shown. The locks pictured were not the Pedro Miguel, but the Miraflores Locks at the Pacific entrance to the canal. The latter can be identified by the bridge, which is the only traffic bridge across the canal.

BILL EVANS,  
Balboa, Canal Zone.

(Editor's note: We relied on the caption supplied by the press service which provided us with the picture, and we regret the error.)



NORTHERN KOREA is controlled by Russia and the southern half of the nation is under the United States. General John Hodge (above) is in command of our forces.



SIGNAL CORPS

## Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

IN a pamphlet entitled "The Smear Terror," John T. Flynn criticizes John Roy Carlson, author of "Under Cover," and certain other political writers for frequently "smearing" the reputations of persons they do not like. Such writers, Mr. Flynn says, make indirect attacks instead of open charges. Here is his description of a typical smear campaign:

"First it is necessary to select what I call a Smear Carrier. Some person who is either guilty or actually convicted of an offense is selected. He is loaded with infamy for all to see. He, however, is not the real intended victim. The real victim is some prominent senator or congressman or political or business leader or writer against whom nothing could be proved and who could not be libeled with impunity.

"Having completely covered the Smear Carrier with guilt, the smearer proceeds to link him with the real victim. He merely mentions that the intended victim knows the Smear Carrier, or that he has written him a letter or got one from him or received him in his office or appeared at some public meeting with him.

"By mentioning the victim frequently in this way the reader gradually absorbs a feeling that there is something wrong with him. And if this is repeated in a book, in a pamphlet, over the air, constantly, if every time the Smear Carrier is mentioned he is referred to as the 'friend of Senator X,' it will not be long before the senator himself is as effectively smeared as the Smear Carrier whose guilt has been 'splashed' on him."

The straight thinker will not be confused by these smear tactics. He will not turn against a person, whether in public or private life, merely because someone has slyly linked this person's name with undesirable individuals. He will insist upon direct evidence, not insinuations, from those who attempt to defame the characters of others. Only such evidence will influence his opinions.



## Independence Eludes Korea

Russia and United States Have Controlled the Country Since the Japanese Rulers Were Overthrown

KOREA is caught squarely in the middle of the world-wide conflict between the United States and Russia. While the intense struggle over their future is being waged, many Koreans are wondering if they will ever gain the independence which they have sought since the Japanese took control of the country in 1910.

Long before the Japanese were driven out, the United Nations agreed that Korea should have her independence again. Because she had not governed herself for so long, however, it was later decided that the United States and Russia should supervise her for a time. When the war ended, they moved into Korea, Russia taking charge of the northern part and the United States of the southern.

Since then, little or nothing has been done to unite Korea as a single country under one government. It is so completely cut in two that practically nothing passes between the occupation zones.

The Russian zone, home of 10,000,000 Koreans, contains nearly all the nation's industries. In the American zone, where 20,000,000 people live, are nearly all the farms—the source of food. With their country so divided, northern Koreans cannot receive food from the south, and southern Koreans cannot buy from the northern factories.

The reason that the United States and Russia are keeping Korea in this condition is that they completely disagree on how the country should be governed. Russia wants the entire nation to be under communist control, just as her zone is now. The United States, which has been working to establish a democratic government in southern Korea, wants the entire land to become a democracy.

Each of the two big nations has supporters in Korea. Among Russia's best friends are the Koreans who lived in the Soviet Union while their own country was under Japanese control for many years. In Russia, they learned communist ways, and now they want Korea governed as Russia is.

Russia has also won some followers from among the downtrodden Korean peasants and factory workers. She has been able to convince them that communism will give them a better

life. Because they have known nothing but poverty, they are willing to try her ideas.

On the other hand, the United States has the support of large numbers of Koreans who feel that their country should become a democracy. While some Koreans lived in Russia during the years of Japanese occupation, others lived in America, where they became firm believers in democracy.

Still other Koreans believe that the American goal for their land is best because they fear Russia. They believe that a communist government in Korea would simply be a servant of Russia, permitting the Soviet Union to have her way. Korea would not be independent, they declare, but would be under the Russian thumb.

The majority of Koreans, of course, simply want some kind of plan by which both big countries will get out. After dreaming of independence so long, they want to see it come true.

Our leaders still hope they can reach an agreement with Russia by which Korea can be united. If they cannot, they will probably want us to stay in Southern Korea and work to make it a more prosperous region than the northern area. This will cost us considerable money, but the expenditure may be thought necessary to keep Russia from controlling all of Korea.

## YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 5, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. His report was *laconic*. (lah-kōn'ik) (a) brief and concise (b) confusing (c) disappointing (d) long and complicated.
2. There were numerous *malefactors* (māl'ē-fāk'ters) in the group (a) factory workers (b) pessimists (c) wealthy people (d) criminals.
3. He was *nonchalant*. (nōn'shah-lānt') (a) confused (b) cool and indifferent (c) surprised and excited (d) absent.

4. A *philatelist* (fī-lāt'ē-list) collects: (a) stamps (b) bugs (c) rocks (d) coins.
5. They were chosen *at random*. (rān'dūm) (a) at the last possible moment (b) improperly (c) by chance, without definite rule (d) quickly.
6. That man is *sagacious* (sah-gā'-shūs) (a) shrewd (b) ill (c) miserly (d) angry.
7. His clothing is *tawdry* (taw'drī) (a) soiled (b) worn out (c) cheap and gaudy (d) inexpensive but of good quality.
8. We regard those traditions with *veneration*. (vēn'ur-ā'shūn) (a) disgust (b) doubt (c) indifference (d) reverence.



# The Story of the Week

## Henry Ford II

The Ford Motor Company, one of the greatest industrial empires in the world, is directed by a man not yet 30 years old—Henry Ford II. Young Ford was a Navy officer when his father, Edsel, then president of the company, died in 1943. Because of the importance of Ford factories in war production, Henry was released from the Navy at that time. He took a position in the company and, in 1945, became its president.

Since then he has made many changes to streamline the Ford Motor Company's operations, and has brought new men to fill a number of important jobs. In managing the huge company founded by his grandfather, Henry Ford, pioneer automobile builder who



**WAR GOES ON** for this Greek girl. She belongs to the radical forces now resisting the government of Greece.

died this month, he uses his assistants well. It is said that he listens to them, argues with them, and follows their advice if it is backed by sound evidence.

The building of the industrial empire over which young Ford presides was a work of genius. Admirers and critics of the late Henry Ford, and he had both, agree that he was possessed of rare foresight and imagination.

Ford's contribution to American industry and life was twofold. First, he took the automobile out of the luxury class, and, through mass production at a low price, he made it possible for millions of people to own cars. Second, he realized, as most industrialists of the day did not, that wages had to be high if there was to be mass buying of cars and other goods.

## Europe's No. 1 Plague

Tuberculosis is following hunger and cold through Europe and is now that continent's No. 1 killer. In spite of all efforts by UNRRA, the Red Cross, and other relief agencies, the dread disease has spread across these war-torn countries.

Germany, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and Greece are the worst sufferers. Moldavia, a Romanian province which has had two successive years of drought, is on a starvation diet and here the terrible disease is raging unchecked. More than 600,000 Romanians, out of a total population of 13½ million, have tuberculosis. The United States, with a population of 140 million, had about half a million known TB cases in 1945.

Before Hitler, Germany had one of

the world's lowest tuberculosis rates. Today it has one of the highest. Berlin alone every week reports more than 400 new cases and 150 deaths among her population of 3¼ million. In Poland it is estimated that 18,000 persons, mostly young people, die every month of tuberculosis. The death rate is rising in the Netherlands.

France is virtually the only continental nation reporting a decline in TB deaths, but all her sanatoriums are crowded to capacity. The disease is declining in Britain, mainly because the dull and restricted diet in that country has been kept high in nutritional value and children have had priority on the best foods available.

## U. S. Telephones

This month's telephone strike has called attention to the size and importance of the American phone system. We now have more than 30 million telephones. All other nations combined do not have this many. Our phones are connected by 115 million miles of wire—more than enough to reach from the earth to the sun.

Over these phones last year we made an average of 100 million local calls and 5 million toll and long-distance calls per day. The amount of long-distance calling has greatly increased in recent years. It is believed that the war helped to accustom people to the use of that service. Soldiers, for instance, made many long-distance calls to their homes.

The United States has more than 180 telephone companies, of which about 21 are members of the Bell System. The Bell System handles about 90 per cent of the phone traffic, and most companies outside it are small and local. In addition to spoken conversations, telephone lines carry some telegraph messages and even relayed radio broadcasts.

## Palestine and UN

Great Britain's request for a special meeting of the General Assembly to discuss the Palestine situation is now before the United Nations. If, as expected, the request is granted, the Assembly will meet in New York next month. It will hear Britain's report



**THE BIGGEST INCH** of all is being laid between Texas and California. Part of the 1,280-mile pipeline is to be 30 inches in diameter. It will carry natural gas from the Texas fields to Los Angeles and neighboring towns.

concerning what has been done and will probably appoint a committee, which will hold extensive investigations.

If such a committee is appointed its report should be ready for the September session of the Assembly. The Assembly does not have the power to settle the Palestine question, but it can make recommendations to the UN Security Council and to Great Britain, and in that way it may have considerable influence in the settlement of this extremely difficult international problem.

## Olympic Games

Undeterred by floods and industrial troubles, England is going ahead with her plans to play host to the 50 odd nations expected to bid for world sports laurels in the 1948 Olympic Games.

The Olympics are booked for July 29 to Aug. 14 of next year. The main arena will be the Wembley Stadium in London. Although some British observers have advised against holding the Olympics in England, one sports columnist wrote recently in a London paper: "Cancelling the games would only advertise to the world that the

Old Country really is down and out." A news poll in England has revealed that Britishers are two to one in favor of holding the Olympics in their country.

## The Balloon Still Soars

The Associated Press has reported that since the end of the OPA there has been a 25 per cent increase in the prices of 35 leading products. Another study shows that the over-all cost of living has hit a 26-year high.

These facts are worrying President Truman and his advisers. They are also a matter of concern to many business men and industrialists. The head of a large New York department store recently declared that prices must be lowered or the demand for goods will dry up. This merchant stated that prices are unreasonably high and that it is up to the manufacturers to cut them. Some large companies have already taken this step—the Ford Motor Company, the Chrysler Corporation and International Harvester Company have all made some reductions in the prices of their products.

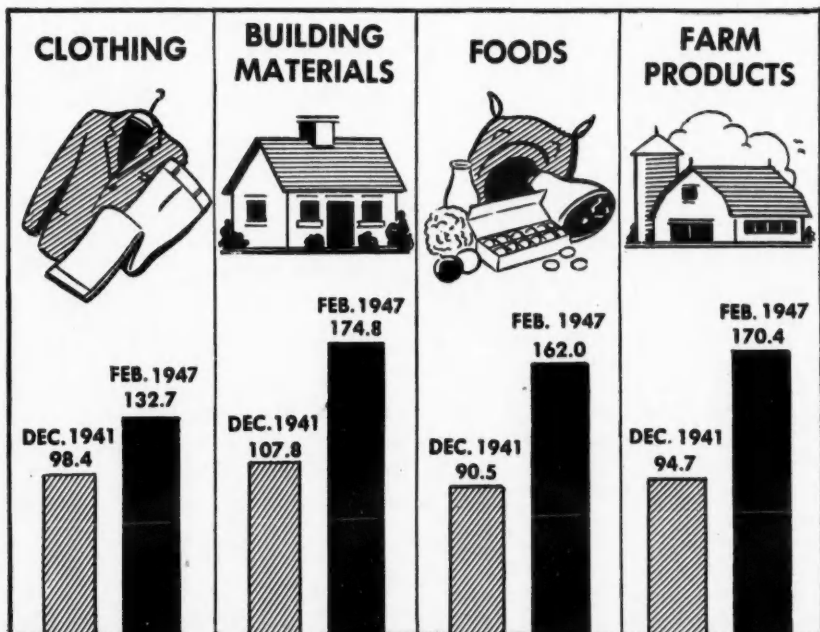
## U. S. of Indonesia

Countries of the world are watching with interest the development of a Dutch union patterned after the British Commonwealth of Nations. That union is to consist of two parts—the Netherlands itself and the United States of Indonesia.

The United States of Indonesia has not yet been established, but eventually it is to include three states—the Indonesian Republic, East Indonesia, and Borneo. By a recently signed agreement between Dutch and native officials, the Indonesian Republic has already been set up and has been given a large measure of self-government.

This new Republic contains the most advanced parts of Indonesia—the islands of Java, Sumatra, and Madura. The state of East Indonesia, containing a number of other islands, has been established too, but it is still largely under Dutch supervision. It will be a long time before Borneo is given any important amount of self-government, for life on that island is now very primitive.

It is the islands which now make



**HIGHER AND HIGHER.** The chart shows how prices of the necessities of life in the United States have risen since the year 1941



up the Indonesian Republic that have shown, since Japan's surrender, the most violent resistance to continued Dutch rule. Establishment of the Republic has not altogether stopped the violence. The Dutch, during their three centuries of control, have accumulated great holdings of land and resources, and there is still bitter dispute as to what holdings and economic rights the Dutch should keep.

### Safety Awards

Washington, D. C., earlier this month, was declared the winner of the National Traffic Safety Contest for having done "the most that could be done practicably for traffic safety" in 1946. The 1,355 cities in the contest were judged not only on the number of accidents, but on other factors, such as traffic rules enforcement, school safety and public safety education. Washington was not the only contest winner. The cities of the country were divided into groups according to population, and awards were made to Memphis, Tennessee; San Diego, California; Omaha, Nebraska; Hamtramck, Michigan; Rochester, Minnesota; Logan, Utah; Albert Lea, Minnesota.

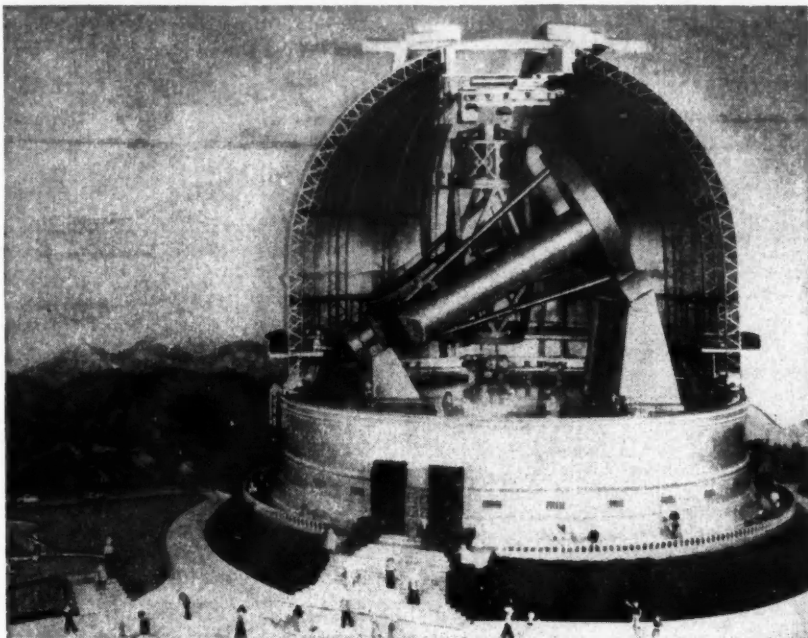
All the states also took part in the contest, and first place went to Connecticut. The number of traffic deaths in proportion to miles traveled was only about half as high in that state last year as in the entire country.

### Britain's Ships

Great Britain, in spite of her many difficulties, is now building nine ships to every one being finished in an American shipyard. Before the war, she was the world's leading shipper and she hopes to regain that position.

Despite the huge shipbuilding program carried on in the United States during the war, our peacetime merchant fleet has serious defects. Most of the vessels built were Liberty ships which are slow, expensive to run, and suitable only for bulky cargoes.

Although it is not the aim of the United States to build ships to carry all our imports and exports, shipping authorities think we should have enough to take care of about half our international trade. This merchant



A MODEL of the Mount Palomar Observatory in California. It is to house the giant telescope that will allow scientists to gaze farther into space than ever before. The observatory will probably be ready for use later this year.

fleet, they say, will enable us to keep rates of foreign shippers down and stimulate competition among them.

### Franco's Plans?

Will the long vacant Spanish throne again be occupied by a king? That question has been raised by Generalissimo Franco's announcement that he may reestablish the monarchy with a "person of royal blood" at the head. What person he has in mind is not known, since he has not communicated with Don Juan, son of the last Spanish king.

Curiosity is expressed in Spain and elsewhere about Franco's motives. Few believe that he plans to surrender actual power. It is assumed that, whether or not he restores monarchy, he will hold in his own hands the reins of government. He may think, however, that his rule will be more popular at home and abroad if royalty is brought back.

### Russian Journalism

American reporters covering the Foreign Ministers' Council in Moscow are pleasantly surprised by the ease

with which they can send stories back to their newspapers. C. L. Sulzberger, writing for the *New York Times*, says, "Foreign reporters have been able to send dispatches even indirectly related to the Council . . . without interference and with fine transmission."

Sulzberger also comments favorably on the manner in which Russian papers report the conference. He says that although Soviet editorials often are sharply critical of British and American policies, news stories are not particularly prejudiced. The Russians, Sulzberger admits, naturally do emphasize arguments of their own delegates more strongly than they emphasize the views of others, but Americans too, he reminds us, are guilty of that fault.

### To Africa

Exploration methods used by Attilio Gatti, who intends to lead an expedition from the United States to Africa this summer, will be much different from those of early adventurers on the Dark Continent.

In a helicopter, Gatti will be able to hover above herds of wild animals, taking pictures and recording sounds. From a hollow shaft lowered to the bottom of a river, he intends to observe underwater life. Cameras which take pictures automatically whenever any animal comes within range are expected to take close-ups of creatures unapproachable by humans.

### Outside Reading

"The Real Test is the Economic Peace," by James Reston, *New York Times Magazine*, February 9, 1947. "Freedom and prosperity in other parts of the world are essential to our own prosperity and to peace."

"The Foreign Trade Myth," by William Knox, President of Westinghouse Electric International Company, *Vital Speeches*, December 15, 1946. Asking for a systematic method of making U. S. foreign trade policy.

"Better Minds for Better Politics," by Arthur Vanderbilt, Dean of the New York University School of Law, *New York Times Magazine*, March 9, 1947. Today's problems demand that capable persons take part in politics.

## Study Guide

### World Trade

1. Name five products which Americans sell in large quantities to other countries.
2. Why do our producers send part of their goods abroad, even though there are shortages of these same articles in the United States?
3. What items on your breakfast table probably came from foreign nations?
4. Why is it said that we are poorer rather than richer if we consistently sell more to other nations than we buy from them?
5. Why must we buy products from other countries if we want them to buy from us?
6. Name two ways in which nations limit the amount of goods that can come in from other countries?
7. Why do nations erect barriers to trade?
8. Explain how our "reciprocal trade agreements" work?
9. What is the purpose of the Geneva trade parley now in session?

### Discussion

1. From what you know of the reciprocal trade program, are you for or against it? Explain your position.
2. Do you or do you not think that we should buy as much from other countries as we sell to them? Give your reasons.
3. If an International Trade Organization is formed, would you be in favor of having the United States join it?

### U. S. Democracy

1. Who is Dr. George Gallup, and why is he in a good position to know how well informed the American people are?
2. Approximately what part of the population entitled to vote in the elections last November actually did vote? Is this record better or worse than that of other democracies?
3. What evidence is there that interest in voting is falling off rather than increasing?
4. Tell of several elementary facts concerning government which Gallup has found that large numbers of Americans know little or nothing about.
5. Give three reasons why the public is not more interested in political matters.

### Discussion

1. What methods can you suggest for keeping the American public better informed about public problems and more actively interested in helping to solve them?
2. Are you and your classmates making an effort, outside of school, to keep up with matters of public interest? If so, what are you doing?
3. Do you or do you not think democracy can work well in this country if about half of the people know little or nothing about problems facing the nation, and if they take no part in voting?

### Miscellaneous

1. True or false: Southern Korea, which is occupied by the United States, has twice as many people as the Russian-controlled northern area, but it lacks industrial development.
2. What islands are included in the new Republic of Indonesia?
3. What is the No. 1 disease menace in Europe today?
4. Where will the 1948 Olympic Games be held?
5. True or false: The United States has as many telephones as all the rest of the nations combined.
6. When was the Monroe Doctrine proclaimed?

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) brief and concise; 2. (d) criminals; 3. (b) cool and indifferent; 4. (a) stamps; 5. (c) by chance or without definite rule; 6. (a) shrewd; 7. (c) cheap and gaudy; 8. (d) reverence.



THIS HELICOPTER will be used by a group of explorers from the United States to visit regions in Africa that have been inaccessible up to now



## World Trade

(Continued from page 1)

panded and increased their output. Hence they will need to sell more goods abroad if they are to keep going at their present rate of production. If they cannot sell larger quantities of goods to other lands, they will be obliged to reduce their output and to dismiss many of their employees.

It is true that our manufacturers and farmers have less need now for foreign markets than they do in ordinary times. The output of many products is still too small to satisfy the demands of the American people themselves.

Our producers must, however, look beyond the present emergency. They must, so far as possible, supply foreign customers even during these days of scarcity, for if they should lose their markets abroad, they would feel the effects severely when normal times return. After the home demand is satisfied and shortages disappear, they will need an export trade.

Some industries depend more upon foreign demand than others do. For example, the farm implement factories have been shipping about 20 per cent of their products overseas. One-tenth of all our automobiles have been going to foreigners. American producers have been selling large quantities of washing machines, refrigerators, electrical equipment, office and factory machines, typewriters, textile goods and chemicals.

If, after normal times return, these products cannot be sold in heavy volume to foreigners, the output of certain factories will be reduced and hundreds of thousands of workers will lose their jobs. It is a fact that many American farmers, businessmen, and workers have a big stake in international trade.

Thus far, we have been speaking of the necessity of selling to foreigners. All Americans benefit directly or indirectly by these sales. But that is only one side of the picture. We need to buy from foreigners as well as to sell to them.

You cannot sit down to your breakfast without being impressed by this fact. The coffee comes from Latin America, chiefly from Brazil. If there is tea on the table, it is brought from Asia. Your sugar probably comes from Cuba. Pepper is imported from the Netherlands Indies. If there are bananas on the table, they were grown in Central America. Our diet would be much simpler and less varied if we could not call upon the world for many of the foods which we desire.

### Medicines From Abroad

A number of our important medicines come from foreign lands. Camphor from Formosa, and quinine from Java, are ingredients used very widely in the preparation of medicines. Our pharmacists and doctors depend heavily on other drugs imported from the four corners of the earth. The health of the American people is safer because we can call upon the world for essential medicinal products.

Foreign goods play a large part in the production of our most commonly used manufactured articles. An automobile, for example, contains 300 materials imported from 55 countries. Your electric lights would be dim without tungsten from Bolivia, China, and Mexico. Of 37 important materials in your telephone, 18 come from abroad.

Steel is the basis of United States mass production. It is used in our machines, tools, transportation equipment, and farm implements. Yet steel as we know it today could not be produced without manganese, chromite, tungsten, nickel, vanadium, and other alloys imported from many foreign countries.

American mineral resources were badly depleted during the war. Our supplies of such essential minerals as copper, lead, and zinc should be replenished by imports from other countries. Imports as well as exports are essential to our industrial strength and to the maintaining of high living standards. If we are to be strong and prosperous we must sell certain products to foreigners and we must buy other things from them.

At present our export trade is flourishing. It is estimated that, during the year 1947, Americans will sell abroad goods to the value of 11 billion dollars. At the same time we will buy from foreigners goods to the value of only 6 billion dollars. More is going out of the country than is coming in.

A question comes up at this point. How can the people of foreign coun-

tries get 11 billion dollars' worth of goods from us while sending us but 6 billion dollars' worth in exchange? Where do they get the money to pay us for the extra 5 billion dollars' worth?

The answer is that our government and the American people have made huge gifts of food, clothing, and materials to the people of certain war-devastated countries. This has been done to relieve suffering and to restore factories and equipment injured and destroyed by war. To other countries we have made large loans, and these countries use the money thus supplied to buy our goods.

Such a policy is fair and reasonable if followed only in an emergency when the world is trying to rise from the ashes of war, and when America can afford to help the sufferers. But if we should go ahead with such a policy year after year, the nation would be in the position of a grocer who sells on credit and receives nothing for his goods but worthless promises to pay.

If we are to prosper through foreign trade, it must be a matter of exchanging goods for goods. Our nation as a whole is actually poorer if we consistently send more products and materials out of the country than we bring in from the outside. In other words, we are the losers if we go on year after year selling more goods abroad than we buy from other lands. By doing so, we use up our resources—our national treasure—more rapidly than we would if we bought more products from abroad.

The American people have not understood this fact, and for many years they have sold much more to foreigners than they have bought from them. During the period from 1914 to 1933, the value of goods sold by Americans to foreigners was 24 billion dollars greater than the value of goods which we purchased from them. As one writer puts it, "three shiploads of goods left the country for every two shiploads that came in."

### We Made Loans

During these years Americans made loans to foreigners, and the money thus obtained by them was used to buy our goods.

When it came time to pay back these loans, the foreigners were often unable to do so. We would not permit them to sell enough of their products in our country so that they could get hold of American money to repay the loans. There was a strong feeling among the majority of Americans that goods bought from abroad would compete with similar products made in this country.

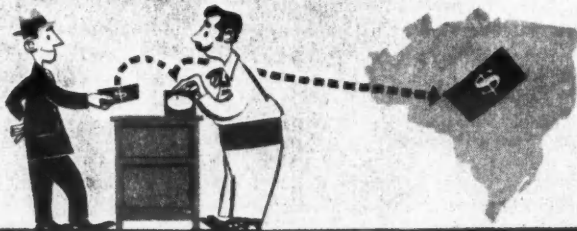
It was argued that labor was cheap in other countries; that wages were low. It was said that foreign firms, paying low wages, could produce cheaply and undersell American producers who paid higher wages.

Those who wanted this country to buy more products from abroad replied that our producers did not need to fear foreign competition. They said that well-paid American workers, using modern tools and machinery, could produce goods more efficiently and cheaply than low-paid foreign workers with poor equipment.

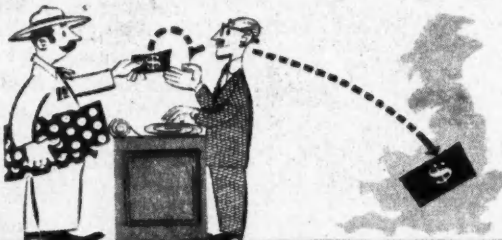
This was a highly controversial question, with strong arguments on each side, but the people who feared imports had their way. High tariff laws were adopted, placing heavy taxes upon foreign products coming into this country. These taxes dis-

## How your Dollar makes a Home Run on a Single!

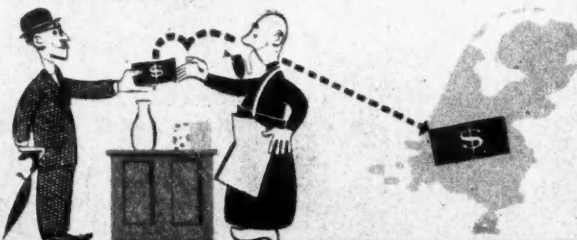
1 The dollar you pay for a few pounds of coffee eventually goes to Brazil...



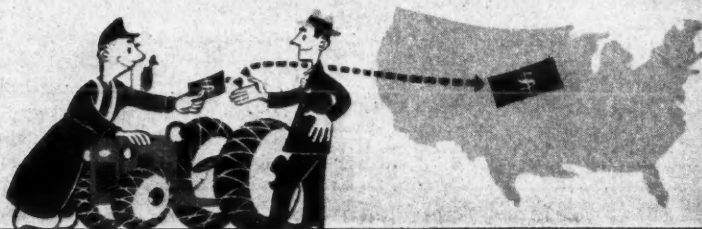
2 But, it doesn't stay there. Brazil sends it on to Britain to pay for cloth...



3 The dollar doesn't stay in Britain, either. Britain uses it to buy milk and cheese from Holland...



4 The Dutch need machines from the U. S. So, the dollar comes home.



How your dollar makes a home run on a single

ADVERTISING COUNCIL



## CHEAP FOREIGN LABOR



HE GETS \$1<sup>00</sup> A DAY



HE PRODUCES 100 NAILS A DAY



HIS PRICE WOULD BE HIGH

## OUR LABOR



HE GETS \$10<sup>00</sup> A DAY



HE PRODUCES 100,000 NAILS A DAY



AND HE CAN SELL THEM CHEAPER

The argument that cheap foreign labor is not a menace

couraged goods from abroad and limited their sale here.

So it turned out that, for a number of years after the beginning of the First World War, we shipped a great deal out of the country and shipped in much less.

In 1934, our tariff policy was changed considerably. Our government adopted the reciprocal (give-and-take) trade agreements plan. The purpose of this policy was twofold. First, it undertook to increase the sale of many kinds of foreign goods in our country—goods which would not compete too severely with American products. The second purpose was to help other countries to buy still more of our products. Here is how the plan, which is still in effect, works:

### Trade Treaty

The United States government proposes to a foreign nation that a treaty between the two should be arranged. It says, in effect, to the nation: "We shall select a number of your products which we need and which will not compete greatly with American producers. We shall lower the tariff on these articles so that it will be easy for you to sell them to us.

"In return, you are to select certain things which we produce and which you need—articles which will not compete too much with any of your producers. You are to lower your rates on such articles so that it will be easier for you to buy them from us.

"The effect of this plan will be to lower many of the tariff rates on both sides so that trade may flow more freely between our country and yours, without harming the interests of either."

We have made treaties of this kind with 29 nations. How well the plan works is a matter of dispute. There are many people in the United States who say that it does not sufficiently protect American industries from

harmful or ruinous competition. Supporters of the plan reply that far more of our industries have benefited from this trade program than have been hurt by it. On this issue, opinion in the United States seems to be fairly evenly divided.

Whatever may be said for or against the reciprocal trade policy, we still have a situation under which more products leave our country each year than are shipped in. We consistently continue to sell to foreigners more than we buy from them. During and since the war we have, as stated earlier in the article, made heavy loans to foreigners which enable them to buy more from us than they sell to us.

We have spoken of the attitude of the American people toward exports and imports. We have told how they have tried to discourage a great volume of foreign goods from entering the country. Other nations, in the years before the war, did the same thing. They were much more anxious to sell their goods abroad than to buy foreign products. They, too, built tariff walls to protect their own industries.

In addition to tariffs, some of the countries have adopted a device called the quota system. They decree by law that so much and no more of a certain product may be bought from the outside. They limit the quantity that can come from the United States or from any other country.

This is but an illustration of a number of plans that have been adopted to hold down imports from abroad. These devices have, of course, made it harder for goods to pass over national boundary lines. They hinder the free flow of foreign commerce. While we have been more successful than other countries in limiting imports as compared to exports, they have tried just as hard as we have to do so.

We come back now to the trade conference which is in session in Geneva. This conference is taking up

the problem of tariffs, of quotas, and of other devices which hinder trade among the nations.

It seems certain that the Geneva conference, for one thing, will recommend to all the nations that they adopt the reciprocal trade agreement plan which the United States is following. It probably will ask the nations to give up the quota system altogether. It will try to eliminate certain other practices now being followed by some or all of the nations.

In addition, the conference will probably ask that all the nations join in forming an International Trade Organization, as an agency of the United Nations. This organization will undertake to see to it, through advice, recommendation and negotiation, that all the nations follow in good faith the rules which are adopted to promote world commerce.

## Science News

SOON we may make long-distance telephone calls by direct dialing, just as the people in most large cities now make local calls.

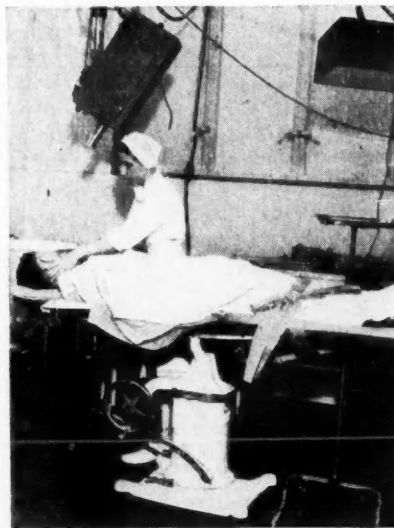
Systems are now in operation between some localities so that a long-distance operator in one city can dial directly any phone number in the other one. Telephone companies explain that we cannot do long-distance dialing from our homes until an automatic device for making out bills on the calls is perfected.

★ ★ ★

Accurate relief maps, with surfaces shaped to represent mountains and valleys, have long been essential to engineers and army commanders. On the other hand, many schools and organizations which would also have use for them have found them too expensive. Besides, the plaster model, the most common type, is very cumbersome.

At last the plastics industry gives us reason to expect wide distribution of accurate, convenient, inexpensive relief maps. They are now printed on sheets of plastic, and the sheets are pressed down and hardened over a metal mold. One of these maps weighs about as much as a sheet of linen the same size. It can be rolled up and placed in a cardboard mailing tube.

Some government agencies are already using these plastic relief maps, and there are plans to produce them commercially.



TELEVISION makes it possible for medical students in a distant room to get a close view of surgical operations.

## Monthly Test

**Note to teachers.** This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for March 10, 17, 24, and 31, and April 14. The answer key appears in this week's issue of The Civic Leader.

**Directions for students.** After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write "true" if the statement is true and "false" if the statement is false.

1. Veterans of World War II who cannot find suitable jobs are eligible to receive \$20 per week from the government while they are unemployed.

2. Russia has refused to accept the plan for American control of Pacific islands formerly owned by Japan.

3. Herbert Hoover recently recommended that the United States discontinue its shipments of food to Germany and Austria.

4. Some American aircraft carriers are too large to pass through the locks of the Panama Canal.

5. Chiang Kai-shek has abandoned his efforts to crush Communist forces which oppose the Nationalist government in China.

6. In half of the Latin American countries, educational standards compare favorably with ours.

7. World War II greatly stimulated the growth of industries in our southern states.

8. American and British leaders are opposed to the Russian plan to establish a strong central government in Germany.

9. The Byrd expedition discovered ice-free areas of land and warm-water lakes in the Antarctic.

10. In most countries of Europe today there is a strong trend toward government ownership and control of major industries.

11. In the first free election held in Hungary after the end of the war, the Communist groups polled a large majority of the votes.

12. The average age of the freight cars owned by American railroads is about 20 years.

13. Congress recently decided that the drafting of young men for military service under the Selective Service Act would be continued for another year.

14. The people of Hungary are poor because their country has rocky soil and few mineral resources.

15. The population of Brazil is nearly as large as that of the United States.

For each of the following questions and incomplete statements, write the number of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

16. Troops of which nation have occupied Hungary since the end of the war? (1) France, (2) Russia, (3) United States, (4) England.

17. According to the proposal made by President Truman, who would become President if both the President and the Vice President died or were removed from office? (1) Secretary of State, (2) President of the Senate, (3) Speaker of the House of Representatives, (4) Chief Justice of the United States.

18. A revolt has been taking place in which of the following Latin American countries in recent weeks? (1) Paraguay, (2) Argentina, (3) Brazil, (4) Bolivia.

(Concluded on back of this page)

## Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

19. The Foreign Ministers of the "Big Four" nations have been meeting in Moscow to draw up peace treaties for what two countries? (1) Italy and Germany, (2) Hungary and Romania, (3) Germany and Austria, (4) Poland and Yugoslavia.

20. The most important product of Venezuela is (1) coal, (2) oil, (3) bananas, (4) coffee.

Identify the following men by selecting the proper description for each from the list given below. Write the capital letter which precedes the correct description opposite the proper number on your answer sheet.

21. George C. Marshall
22. Georges Bidault
23. V. M. Molotov
24. Omar Bradley
25. Ernest Bevin
26. Joseph Martin
27. Mark Clark
28. Lewis Douglas
29. John McCloy
30. Lucius Clay

- (A) Russian Foreign Minister
- (B) President of Argentina
- (C) U. S. Secretary of State
- (D) British Foreign Minister
- (E) Head of Veterans Administration
- (F) President of World Bank
- (G) Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives
- (H) U. S. Ambassador to Argentina
- (I) French Foreign Minister
- (J) Commander of U. S. occupation troops in Germany
- (K) U. S. Ambassador to Britain
- (L) Commander of U. S. occupation troops in Austria

In each of the following items, select the word which most nearly defines the word in *italics* and write its letter on your answer sheet.

31. His *vacillation* made us impatient. (a) cheating and lying, (b) indecision and wavering, (c) ignorance, (d) clumsiness.

32. Hitler said that democracies were *decadent*. (a) too powerful, (b) selfish and arrogant, (c) deteriorating and failing to ruin, (d) unreasonable in their demands.

33. The *emoluments* connected with an office are (a) money and privileges, (b) working hours, (c) responsibilities and privileges, (d) prestige.

34. A *taciturn* person is (a) generous, (b) ignorant, (c) excitable, (d) silent.

35. They are *implacable* foes of tyranny. (a) unyielding, (b) powerful, (c) imprisoned, (d) homeless.

Answer each of the following questions on your answer sheet.

36. Juan Peron is president of which Latin American country?

37. In what part of North America has a large iron ore deposit been discovered?

38. What is the name of the U. S. government agency which regulates the railroads?

39. Where is Gander airport?

40. Which Latin American country is larger in area than the United States?

## Careers for Tomorrow - - The Physician

THE medical profession attracts students who like biology and chemistry and have a sincere interest in helping people. No one should plan to enter this field unless he is convinced he will always be able to put the welfare of others above his own pleasure.

The prospective doctor must be a first-rate student. He will have to study hard to learn his work. Throughout his career he must keep up with new medical discoveries.

Before the war, this field often seemed overcrowded. Such an impression was partly due to the fact that doctors were poorly distributed. There were too many in the cities, and too few in rural areas. If this situation had been corrected, and if all people who needed medical care could have afforded it, there would have not have been too many doctors.

During the war, and since the end of the conflict, the nation's doctors have been busy all the time. Moreover, recent developments make it appear likely that the physicians will continue to be occupied in the years ahead. Many doctors are needed in veterans' hospitals. Industrial firms have begun to employ physicians to care for their workers. People in rural areas are banding together to assure a good annual income to doctors who come to their localities.

A student who wants to enter the medical field must look forward to a long period of training. He should start in high school by taking courses in biology, zoology, and chemistry.

He must then have from two to four years of premedical work in college. Before he starts this work he should consult authorities in the medical school he plans to attend so that he will take the right subjects.

The course in medical school is usually four years in length. Beyond



A doctor's life is hard

this a young doctor must often plan on a year's internship in a hospital before he can practice.

The doctor needs this extensive training both to equip him for the highly responsible work he has chosen, and to enable him to pass the necessary state examinations.

A doctor's income varies with the degree of prosperity in the nation as a whole. When times are bad, people

postpone medical treatment; or, if they must have a doctor, they may not be able to pay him. During good times, people call the doctor more frequently and pay him more promptly.

It is hard to predict the earnings of doctors in the future. A well-trained physician, however, can expect to earn as much as a professional person in other fields. The doctor who, for lack of skill or personality, does not have his patients' full confidence will naturally have a hard time.

An increasing number of women are training for medical careers. They are hampered by a prejudice against women as doctors, but many succeed, particularly as specialists in children's or women's diseases.

A doctor may be a general practitioner and care for whatever ills his patients have, or he may specialize in the treatment of individual diseases. The specialist ordinarily has a higher income than does the general doctor, and he is able to keep more regular office hours. Many doctors, though, prefer a general practice because the work is more varied.

Information about colleges giving acceptable premedical courses can be obtained from the American Medical Association, 535 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. Ask your librarian for books on medical careers, and talk to doctors in your community. Many of them will tell you not to go into this work, but actually few would trade their profession for any other.

By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Historical Backgrounds - - by David S. Muzzey

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S message to Congress on March 12, in which he urged financial aid for Greece and Turkey, is being referred to as the "Truman Doctrine." It is being compared to the Monroe Doctrine of 124 years ago as an important declaration of American foreign policy.



David S. Muzzey

In 1823, however, when President Monroe sent his famous message to Congress, the position of the United States was much different from that it occupies today. At that time our nation was not one of the great powers of the world. Its population was only about 10 million. It had won its independence from the British Empire only 40 years earlier. Its ambassadors at European capitals were sometimes snubbed and looked down upon by the representatives of older and more powerful nations.

All the great powers of Europe in the early 19th century were monarchies. They did not approve of the democratic principles of the American Revolution. Nor did they look with favor upon the young republics of Latin America which had broken away from Spanish rule during the Napoleonic wars.

These European nations had united in the so-called "Holy Alliance" for the purpose of suppressing democracy wherever it appeared. It was rumored

that the members of this alliance intended to reconquer the former colonies in Latin America and restore them to the King of Spain. The United States did not want to see this happen. One of the main reasons for the announcement of the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 was to warn these European monarchs not to interfere with the independent governments of Latin America.

A second reason for President Monroe's message was a decree by the Czar of Russia in 1821, laying claim to a strip of land along the west coast of North America. It appeared that Russia planned to extend her possessions in Alaska down into the Oregon country which was claimed by both Great Britain and the United States.

Under these circumstances, President Monroe, acting on the advice of his cabinet, stated this nation's policy in his message to Congress on December 2, 1823. He laid down three main principles in this historic message:

(1) The Western Hemisphere was no longer open for colonization. (This was aimed chiefly at Russian expansion in the Northwest.)

(2) European nations must not try to impose their forms of government on any of the independent nations in this part of the world.

(3) The United States would not interfere in the internal affairs of any European country.

President Monroe's message was a warning to European monarchs to "keep hands off the Western Hemisphere." It was a bold challenge to the

Holy Alliance, and might not have been successful if the United States had stood alone in 1823. President Monroe, though, knew that he could count on the support of Great Britain to enforce the principles which he had stated. The British navy ruled the seas and could have stopped any attempt to interfere with the independent nations of this hemisphere.

The Monroe Doctrine was never formally adopted by Congress. It has stood simply as a declaration of policy by President Monroe. But it has been adhered to by the United States for more than a century, and has never been successfully challenged. It has come to be known as the "cornerstone of American foreign policy."



MONROE'S historic doctrine was set forth in 1823